

NURSING ECHOES.

The form of the mask to be worn in nursing influenza cases is a subject of importance, for, if adopted, it must be efficient, otherwise, in the formula of the quondam anti-registrationists, it will only "lull the public (and the nurses) into a sense of false security." In nursing such a deadly disease as acute influenzal pneumonia, which, we are glad to know, becomes one of the notifiable diseases to-day (March 1st), it is the duty of a nurse to take every possible precaution for the protection of the community as well as herself, and one line of protection seems to lie in the use of masks. In this connection, a writer in a French medical journal points out that as long ago as 1874 he devised a protecting mask for use when in contact with diphtheria. It was put on, and worn like a pair of spectacles. These masks were also found useful in certain necropsies, and he and his pupils have been using them for forty years.

No one seems to have suggested the use of rubber gloves in nursing cases of influenzal pneumonia, but in attending to a case of this kind, and handling the vessels containing sputa and other discharges, they must certainly be a protection.

We are glad to observe that Dr. Addison, President of the Local Government Board, appreciates the fact that one of the principal needs in dealing with the influenza epidemic is competent nursing, and is taking the right method of dealing with the situation. Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Ladywood), last week, asked a question in the House of Commons as to whether he was aware that one of the principal causes of the loss of life in the influenza epidemic had been the lack of trained nurses, whether his attention had been called to the fact that in France and Egypt there was a large number of nurses who have little or nothing to do, who had not been demobilized because they had no fixed employer who could apply for them, and whether, in view of the renewed epidemic of influenza, he would make representations to the Secretary of State for War to have some of these nurses released at once.

Dr. Addison, in reply, said that he was aware that one of the principal needs in the medical treatment of influenza was competent nursing, and he was referring the proposal made in his hon. Friend's question to the authorities responsible for demobilization. He said further that local authorities and nursing associations, and not the Local Government

Board, were responsible for the provision of nursing facilities.

In the first annual report of the Ministry of Pensions, which covers the work of the Department to March 31st, 1918, we note that 163 pensions have been granted to nurses, a mere fraction of the whole. In the year ended March last the amount paid in pensions and gratuities was £19,206,000, the number of individual payments reaching the substantial figure of 20½ millions.

Dr. Edmund M. Smith, Medical Officer of Health, Health Department, 50, Bootham, York, writes to the press asking for names and addresses of women who, "though they may not have had hospital training, have had more or less experience of nursing, and who are willing to be employed on night or day duty at patients' homes in cases of influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis, and other diseases, cases not usually or always removed to a hospital. . . . They would be paid either by the patients or out of public funds."

We consider that the ratepayers might very well object to payment being made out of public funds for nursing of this insufficient description in the cases enumerated.

We are glad to note that Dr. Smith advises ex-V.A.D.s to obtain general training in hospital for three or four years.

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses states in its 26th annual report, recently published, that since the foundation of the Co-operation, in 1894, 37,236 cases have been nursed, and £238,881 7s. 3d. have been earned.

Of the 73 nurses on war service ten have been decorated by the King with the Royal Red Cross, and others mentioned in dispatches: War service means financial sacrifice both to the Nurses and the Home; the remuneration for Army Nursing is considerably less than the sum which a nurse can earn at private nursing on the staff of the Co-operation.

The Committee reported that they received with great regret the intimation that Miss Helen M. Rough—to whom the inauguration of the Co-operation was due—desired to retire from the position of Lady Superintendent, and unanimously resolved to record in the Minutes the high appreciation of the Committee of her long and valuable services. They further express the view that the great success of the Co-operation has been in a large measure due to her untiring efforts. They also express their

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